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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 000881

SIPDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR PALMER TO CENTCOM J5
STATE FOR TFIZ, PM, WHA, WHA/CEN, AND WHA/PPC
JCS FOR J5

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/10/2013

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [IZ](#) [HO](#)

SUBJECT: TFI201: EMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA BELIEVES HONDURAN
CONGRESS WILL APPROVE GOH OFFER OF POST-WAR TROOPS FOR IRAQ

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 862

Classified By: Ambassador Larry Palmer; Reasons 1.5 (b) and (d).

1. (C) On April 7 Honduran Minister of Foreign Affairs Guillermo Perez-Cadalso Arias gave me a letter offering to provide Honduran troops for post-war humanitarian needs in Iraq (see reftel). FM Perez-Cadalso told me that that both President Ricardo Maduro and Minister of Defense Federico Breve had approved the offer. The letter specifically offers to participate in the humanitarian aspects of the reconstruction of Iraq, including sending troops who specialize in demining and peacekeeping troops (see paragraph 2 for an informal translation of the letter, which was faxed to CENTCOM and the State Department April 7). While the letter notes that this deployment offer is contingent on congressional approval, as required by the Honduran constitution, FM Perez-Cadalso said he does not think that such an approval will be a problem. I fully concur with this assessment. While such a request will be somewhat controversial and there will be opponents in congress, the Embassy believes that congress will approve a request to deploy troops for peacekeeping and/or demining in post-war Iraq. I do not expect the GOH to seek congressional approval until after the war is over and the USG had made a more specific request for Honduran troops. However, I recommend that CENTCOM proceed immediately with "reading-in" the Honduran military liaison, COL Carlos Andino Cobos, so that he can work with CENTCOM to determine the most appropriate contribution of Honduran troops for post-war Iraq.

Text of Letter Offering Troops for Post-War Iraq

2. (SBU) Begin text of informal translation of FM Perez-Cadalso letter to Ambassador:

Tegucigalpa, M.D.C.
April 3, 2003

Mr. Ambassador:

I have the honor to address Your Excellency and request your good offices to convey to your government the disposition of the Government of Honduras to make the following offer:

1. Once the war against Iraq is over, with the expected triumph of the coalition forces, Honduras could participate in the humanitarian efforts tending to the reconstruction of that country in two specific areas, providing: a) personnel trained in demining work, and b) personnel trained in peacekeeping operations.

2. It is understood that, in the event this offer were to be accepted, the deployment of the mentioned military personnel, by constitutional mandate, has to be authorized by the National Congress acting upon a request from the Executive Power.

I take this opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest esteem and consideration.

/s/

Guillermo Perez-Cadalso Arias
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Excellent Mr.
Larry Palmer
Ambassador of the United States of America
Tegucigalpa

End text of informal translation of FM Perez-Cadalso letter to Ambassador.
Palmer